

LETTER

FROM A

MEMBER

OF THE

House of Commons

TO HIS

FRIEND in the Country,

Relating to the

Bill of Commerce.

WITH

A True Copy of the *BILL*, and
an Exact *LIST* of all those
who voted for and against En-
grossing it.

LONDON:

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Bill of Commerce.



CAN easily conceive with what
Surprize you receiv'd the News
of the Throwing out of the Bill
for Commerce with *France*; It is
no less amazing to us who were
present, to see a P——t, which
has all along shewn so good a Disposition to sup-
port the present Administration in whatever they
have done for the publick Good, and been so very
A jealous

jealous of every Thing that could hurt the Pre-rogative, or cast the least Blemish on the Crown, should at last, without any Reason assign'd, but the Appealing the Clamour of the W—gs, reject a Bill which was so much for the Honour of the Queen, the Reputation of her Ministry, and the Welfare of the Country.

This Affair is not only amazing, but so very mysterious, that I shall not be able to give you so clear and exact an Account of the Reasons that are assign'd here, why some Persons not only deserted us themselves, but seduced so many of our Friends in so critical a Juncture, without exposing them more than I am willing to do; and therefore shall content my self with acquainting you with Facts only, and leave to your better Judgment, whether they proceeded from weak Judgments, or worse Politicks.

I have therefore sent you down a Copy of the Bill, with an Abstract of the Objections made against it by the Merchants at the Bar of the House, and the Clauses added by the Committee to satisfy the minutest Scruples; for I cannot call them Arguments.

The Bill, with the Clauses added in the Committee, was as follows:

May it please your most Excellent Majesty.

WHereas a Treaty of Navigation and Commerce between your Majesty and *Lewis* the Fourteenth, the Most Christian King, was concluded at *Utrecht* on the 31st Day of *March*, in the Year of our Lord 1713; and by the Eighth Article of the said Treaty it is agreed and concluded as a general Rule, That all and singular the

the Subjects of Your Majesty and of the said King, in all Countries and Places subject to Your Majesty's and his Power on each Side, as to all Duties, Impositions, or Customs, whatsoever, concerning Persons, Goods, and Merchandizes, Ships, Freight, Seamen, Navigation, and Commerce, shall use and enjoy the same Privileges, Liberties, and Immunities, at least, and have the like Favour in all things, as well in the Courts of Justice, as in all such things as relate either to Commerce, or to any other Right whatsoever, with any foreign Nation, the most favoured hath, useth, and enjoyeth, or may hereafter have, use, and enjoy. And by the Ninth Article of the said Treaty it is further agreed, That within the Space of Two Months after, a Law should be made in *Great Britain*, whereby it should be sufficiently provided, That no more Customs or Duties be paid for Goods and Merchandizes brought from *France* to *Great-Britain*, than what are payable for Goods and Merchandizes of the like Nature imported into *Great-Britain* from any other Country in *Europe*: And that all Laws made in *Great-Britain* since the Year 1664, for prohibiting the Importation of any Goods and Merchandizes coming from *France*, which were not prohibited before that Time, be repealed. The General Tariff made in *France* the 18th Day of *September*, in the Year 1664, shall take place there again; and the Duties payable in *France* by the Subjects of *Great-Britain* for Goods imported and exported, shall be paid according to the Tenor of the Tariff above mentioned, and shall not exceed the Rule therein settled in the Provinces whereof mention is there made; and

in the other Provinces, the Duty shall not be payable otherwise than according to the Rule at that Time prescribed. And all Prohibitions, Tariffs, Edicts, Declarations, or Decrees, made in *France* since the said Tariff of the Year 1664, and contrary thereunto in respect to the Goods and Merchandizes of *Great-Britain*, shall be repealed; in which Ninth Article, as also in certain Instruments relating thereunto, other Provision is made touching some particular Goods or Merchandizes, and other Matters therein specified, as by the said Treaty of Navigation and Commerce, and the said separate Instruments, (Relation being thereunto respectively had) may more fully and at large appear. Now to the End that no more Customs or Duties may be payable for Goods and Merchandizes brought from *France* to *Great-Britain*, than what are payable for Goods and Merchandizes of the like Nature imported into *Great-Britain* from any other Country in *Europe*; and that all Laws made in *Great-Britain* since the said Year 1664, for prohibiting the Importation of any Goods and Merchandizes coming from *France*, which were not prohibited before that Time, may be repealed, so that Your Majesty's Subjects may speedily have, use, and enjoy, the Benefit of the said Tariff, and other Benefits and Advantages of Trade, according to the Tenor and true Meaning of the said Treaty, We, Your Majesty's most Dutiful and Loyal Subjects, the Commons of *Great-Britain* in Parliament assembled, do humbly pray Your Majesty, That it may be Enacted, And be it Enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and

and Temporal, and Commons in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That the Duties of 25 *l.* for every Ton of *French* Wine, and 30 *l.* for every Ton of *French* Brandy of single Proof, and 60 *l.* for every Ton of *French* Brandy of double Proof, and 15 *l.* for every Ton of *French* Vinegar, and 25 *l.* *per Cent. ad Valorem* for all other Goods of the Growth, Product, or Manufacture, of *France*, and so proportionably for greater or lesser Quantities, imposed by an Act made in the Seventh Year of the Reign of his late Majesty King *William*, entituled, *An Act for Granting to his Majesty an additional Duty upon all French Goods and Merchandizes*, (in regard these Duties, or any of them, or any Part thereof, are not chargeable upon the like Goods and Merchandizes imported from any other foreign Parts) shall cease and determine, as to all such of the said *French* Goods and Merchandizes chargeable by that Act, as shall be imported into *Great-Britain* from and after the Expiration of Two Months, to be reckon'd from and after the 1st Day of *July*, 1713, and shall not be due or payable during the Residue of the Term and Time, and for which the said additional Duties were by the last mentioned Act granted, any Thing in the same Act, or in any other Act, contained to the contrary, in any wise notwithstanding. And whereas by an Act made in the Ninth Year of the Reign of his late Majesty King *William* the Third, it was enacted, That all and every Person and Persons who should from and after the 25th Day of *March*, 1698, import, or cause to be imported, or should from and after the 24th Day of *De-*
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cember,

cember, 1698, sell, barter, or offer to Sale or Barter, or should knowingly keep in his, her, or their Custody for Sale, or for the Use or Benefit of any Importer or Dealer, any such foreign Lace as (amongst other things) is therein mentioned, should forfeit and lose the Sum of 20 s. per Yard, together with all the said Lace; and the Importation, Selling, Bartering, Offering to Sale or Barter, or knowingly keeping for that Purpose any such foreign Lace, is hereby declared to be a common Nuisance. And by an Act made in the Fifth Year of Her Majesty's Reign, Entituled, *An Act to repeal all the Laws prohibiting the Importation of foreign Bone-Lace, made of Thread*, reciting that the former Acts for prohibiting or restraining the Importation of foreign Lace, or for rendring the Laws more effectual for preventing the Importation of foreign Lace, had obstructed the Exportation, and Vending or Selling the Woollen Manufactures of England in the *Spanish Low-Countries*, and other Places abroad; It was enacted, That all Acts of Parliament whatsoever made, or at any time before the said Act of the 5th Year of her Majesty's Reign, for prohibiting or restraining the Importation, Vending or Selling of foreign Lace, should from thenceforth be repealed, so far forth as they related to such foreign Lace made of Thread in the *Spanish Low-Countries*, or in any other Place not within the Dominions of the *French King*; providing at the same time, that nothing in that Act contained should extend to permit or allow the Importation of Lace made in any the Dominions of the *French King*, or in such other Lands, Towns or Countries as are therein mentioned. Now for better pursuing the
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the End and Intent of the two Articles of the Treaty before-mentioned, It is hereby further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, that all and every the Acts of Parliament heretofore made for prohibiting or restraining the Importation Vending or Selling of foreign Lace, so far forth as the said Acts, or any of them relate to foreign Lace made of Thread within the Dominions of the said *French King*, shall likewise be repealed; and that the same Acts and every Clause, Matter, and thing in them contained, so far as they relate to such foreign Lace made of Thread within the Dominions of the same King be, and are hereby repealed and made void from and after the said Expiration of two Months, to be reckoned from and after the First Day of *July*, 1713. any thing therein contained to the contrary notwithstanding. Provided always, and it is hereby enacted, That if Her Majesty, after the Expiration of two Months, to be reckoned from the First Day of *July*, and before the Beginning of the Session of Parliament then next ensuing, shall find, that Her Subjects shall not have, use, and enjoy the Benefits of Trade and Commerce in *France*, and other Advantages, according to the Tenor and true Meaning of the said Treaty in that behalf; then her Majesty may be graciously pleased, by her Royal Proclamation under the Great Seal of *Great-Britain*, to declare that this present Act shall cease and determine. And it is hereby enacted, That from and after the End or Expiration of twenty Days, to be reckoned from the time of issuing and publishing such Proclamation, this present Act, and every Clause, Matter, and Thing therein contained,

tained, shall cease, determine, and become void; and then, and from thenceforth, all and every the Rates, Duties, Impositions and Sums of Money, by this Act taken away, lessened, or altered, and all the Prohibitions and Restrictions by this Act repealed, shall be revived and be in full force to all Intents and Purposes, as if this Act had never been made, any Thing herein contained to the contrary notwithstanding. And whereas, during the late Wars between the Crowns of *Great-Britain* and *France*, several Acts of Parliament were made against Trading with *France*, whereby the Importation of *French* Goods was prohibited in the Manner and Form therein respectively mentioned, and during the Continuance of the same Acts, or some of them, certain Duties were imposed upon the Importation of foreign Goods and Merchandizes, by general Words in other Acts of Parliament in that behalf made: And altho' the said Acts prohibiting Trade with *France*, are all of them now expired; it may nevertheless be doubted, whether the general Words in the said Acts, imposing such Duties, will extend to *French* Goods of the same Kind; and it being reasonable to make Provision by Authority of Parliament, that the like Customs and Duties be paid for such Goods and Merchandizes brought from *France* into *Great-Britain*, as are payable for Goods and Merchandizes of the like Nature imported into *Great-Britain* from other Countries in *Europe*. Be it therefore further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the several Additional and other Rates, Impositions, Duties and Charges upon several Sorts of Goods and Merchandizes which were granted by one Act of Par-

Parliament made in the Second Year of the Reign of King *William* and Queen *Mary*, entitled, *An Act for granting to their Majesties certain Impositions upon all East India Goods and Manufactures, and upon all wrought Silks, and several other Goods and Merchandizes to be imported after the 25th Day of December, 1690. And which thereby, and by several subsequent Acts of Parliament since expired, were continued until the First Day of August, 1712. And which, by an Act made in the Sixth Year of Her Majesty's Reign, are to have Continuance until the First Day of August, 1714. for the Uses and Purposes therein expressed; and which, by an Act of Parliament made in the Seventh Year of Her Majesty's Reign, are to have Continuance until the First Day of August, 1716. for the Uses and Purposes therein expressed; and which, by an Act of Parliament made in the Eighth Year of Her Majesty's Reign, are to have Continuance until the First Day of August, 1720. for the Uses and Purposes therein expressed; and which, by an Act of Parliament made in the Ninth Year of Her Majesty's Reign, are to continue for ever, for the Uses and Purposes, and subject to such Redemption as in the last mentioned Act are expressed, (except as in the said Acts, or any of them is excepted) shall be charged and chargeable upon such of the said Goods and Merchandizes of the like Nature, which from and after the Expiration of Two Months, to be reckoned from the said First Day of July, 1713. shall be brought from France to Great-Britain, during the Continuance of the same Acts respectively, as fully as such Goods or Merchandizes from France would have been charged*

or chargeable by the said Act of the Second Year of their late Majesty's Reign, if there had been no Prohibition of Trade and Commerce with *France* at the Time of the making thereof, and that the same Act of the Second Year of their late Majesty's Reign, and all the Provisions, Penalties, and Forfeitures and Clauses contained therein, or in any subsequent Act or Acts relating thereunto, shall be in Force, and be apply'd and executed, for raising, levying and paying such Rates and Impositions upon such Goods and Merchandizes so brought from *France*, as aforesaid; and for the several Uses and Purposes in the said Acts respectively mentioned, and subject to such Allowances, Drawbacks, Matters and Things as are thereby prescribed, as fully as if the said Act of the Second Year of their late Majesties Reign, and every Clause, Matter and Thing therein, or in such subsequent Act or Acts contained, were again repeated and re-enacted, excepting always as to such Kinds of the same Goods and Merchandizes, touching which any other Provisions or Alterations are, or have been made by any Act or Acts of Parliament now in Force, which other Provisions and Alterations shall be duly observed, during the Continuance of the said Acts respectively. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That such or the like additional, and other Rates, Impositions, Duties and Charges upon several Sorts of Goods and Merchandizes which were granted by one Act of Parliament made in the Fourth Year of the Reign of the said late King *William* and Queen *Mary*, entitled, *An Act for granting to their Majesties certain additional Impositions upon several Goods and Merchandizes, for*
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the Prosecuting the present War against France; and which thereby, and by several subsequent Acts of Parliament since expired, were continued until the First Day of *August*, 1712. And which by an Act made in the Sixth Year of Her Majesty's Reign, are to have Continuance until the First Day of *August*, 1714. for the Uses and Purposes therein expressed; and which by an Act made in the Seventh Year of Her Majesty's Reign, are to have Continuance until the First Day of *August*, 1716. for the Uses and Purposes therein expressed; and which by an Act made in the Eighth Year of Her Majesty's Reign, are to have Continuance until the First Day of *August*, 1720. for the Uses and Purposes therein expressed; and which by an Act of Parliament made in the Ninth Year of Her Majesty's Reign, are to continue for ever, for the Uses and Purposes, and subject to such Redemption as in the last mentioned Act are expressed, (other than, and except such of the said additional Rates and Duties, or such Parts of the same, touching which, other Provision is hereafter made in this present Act) shall be charged and chargeable upon such of the said Goods and Merchandizes, which from and after the Expiration of Two Months, to be reckoned from the First Day of *July*, 1713. shall be brought from *France* to *Great-Britain*, as by the said Act of the Fourth Year of their said late Majesty's Reign, or by the said Acts for continuing the same are charged or chargeable, upon Goods and Merchandizes of like Nature imported from other Countries, and shall have Continuance for the Uses and Purposes, and Subject to such Redemption, as in the said respective Acts now in Force are

mentioned: And that the same Act of the Fourth Year of their said late Majesties Reign, and all the Provisions, Penalties, Forfeitures and Clauses contained therein, or in any subsequent Act or Acts relating thereunto, shall be in Force and be applied and executed for Raising, Levying and Paying such additional Impositions or Duties upon such Goods and Merchandizes so brought from *France*, as aforesaid; and every Part and Parcel thereof to and for the several Uses and Purposes in the said Acts respectively mentioned, and Subject to such Allowances, Drawbacks, Matters and Things as are thereby prescribed, as fully as if the said Act of the Fourth Year of their late Majesties Reign, and every Clause, Matter and Things therein, or in such subsequent Act or Acts contained, were again repeated and re-enacted. Provided always, That in all Cases where any other Provision or Alteration is made by any other Act or Acts of Parliament now in Being, touching or concerning any the additional Rates, Duties, Impositions or Charges last mentioned, such other Provisions or Alterations shall be observed according to the true Meaning thereof, any Thing herein contained to the contrary notwithstanding. And whereas by the said Act of the Fourth Year of their late Majesty's Reign, and by the said Acts for continuing the same, there was and is imposed upon all *French* Goods and Merchandizes (except as therein is excepted) 25 *l.* for every 100 *l.* value thereof, more than the same were before charged within the Book of Rates, and so in Proportion for any greater or lesser Quantity (which Duty of 25 *l.* *per Cent.* is not chargeable upon the like Goods and Merchandizes

chandizes imported from any other foreign
 Parts) Be it therefore further provided and
 enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the
 said Duty of 25 *l* per Cent. shall cease and
 determine as to all such of the said *French*
 Goods, chargeable by the said Acts in that
 Behalf, as shall be imported into *Great Britain*
 from, and after the Expiration of Two Months,
 to be reckoned from the said First Day of
July 1713. any Thing therein, or in this present
 Act contained to the contrary notwithstanding.
 And whereas the whole of the Duties char-
 geable on the Importation of *French Wines* (be-
 sides the said Duties of 25 *l* per Ton, which
 by this Act is appointed to cease and deter-
 mine as aforesaid,) being compared with the
 whole of the Duties chargeable upon *Portugal*
Wines, (as being the Nation whose Wines are
 most favoured in Point of Duties in *Great*
Britain.) It is evident, that the said Duties
 upon *French Wine* (over and above the said
 Duty of 25 per Ton) do exceed the said
 Duties upon *Portugal Wines* By the Sum of 4 *l*.
 in every Ton, and after that Rate or Propor-
 tion in greater or lesser Quantities. And
 whereas by the said Act of the Fourth Year of
 their late Majesties Reign, and by the said
 Acts for continuing the same, there was, and
 is imposed for every Ton of *French Wine* im-
 ported 8 *l*. above all Duties charged there-
 upon in the Book of Rates, or by any Law
 made before the said Act of the Fourth Year
 of their late Majesties Reign, Now it is
 hereby further provided and enacted by the
 Authority aforesaid, That for establishing a
 Parity between the Duties of *French Wines*
 and

and *Portugal* Wines according to the Purport and true Meaning of the said Treaty, One Moiety or half Part only of the said Duty of 8 *l.* for every Ton of *French* Wines, shall continue and be payable during the said Acts respectively; and the other Moiety or half Part of the said Duty of 8 *l.* for every Ton of *French* Wines shall be imported into *Great Britain*, from, and after the Expiration of Twelve Months, to be reckoned from the First Day of *July* 1713. shall cease and determine any Thing herein, or in any other Act of Parliament to the contrary notwithstanding. It being intended, That the Duties upon *French* Goods shall be equal to the Duties which by the said Act of the Fourth Year of their late Majesties Reign, and by the Acts for continuing the same, are chargeable for Goods of the like Nature, to be imported from all other Parts of *Europe* other than as to the said Duty of 8 *l.* per Ton on *French* Wines, whereof One Moiety is to determine, and the other Moiety is to continue, and be payable according to the Purport and true Meaning of this Act. And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That in all Cases whereby general Words in any Act, or Acts of Parliament made, or passed during the Prohibitions of Trade and Commerce with *France*, or any of them, any Duties of Customs or Excise, or any Rates, Duties, Impositions, or Sums of Money whatsoever, (excepting such, touching which other Provision is before made in this present Act) were granted or continued upon the Importation of any Foreign, Goods, Merchandizes, or

or Commodities whatsoever (whether the same Rates, Duties, or Impositions were granted or continued for any Term or Terms of Years now in Being, or Unexpired, or in Perpetuity) for any Use or Uses, Purpose or Purposes whatsoever. The like Rates, Duties, Impositions, and Sums of Money, shall be understood to be due and payable, and shall be charged and chargeable from and after the Expiration of the said Two Months, to be reckoned from the said First Day of July 1713. upon Goods, and Merchandizes, and Commodities of the like Nature, which shall be brought from *France* into *Great Britain*, during the Continuance of the last-mentioned Acts of Parliament respectively, as fully as the said Goods, Merchandizes, and Commodities from *France*, would have been charged or chargeable with the same Rates, Duties, Impositions or Sums of Money, by the general Words of the said Acts for granting or continuing the same, If no Prohibition of the Trade and Commerce with *France* had been at the Time or Times of making or passing the said Acts respectively. And that the same Acts and all the Provisions, Penalties, and Forfeitures, and Clauses therein contained, shall be in Force, and be applied and executed for raising, levying, and paying the Rates, Duties, Impositions and Sums of Money last-mentioned, (except as aforesaid) upon such of the said Goods, Merchandizes, and Commodities, as may be imported or brought from *France*, for the several Uses and Purposes mentioned in the said Acts now in Force, and subject to such Drawbacks, Allowances, matters and Things

Things as are thereby prescribed during the Continuance of the same Acts respectively, as fully and effectually as if the same Acts, and every Clause, Matter, and Thing therein contained, were again repeated and re-enacted in this present Act. Provided always, That in all Cases where any other Provision or Alteration is made by any other Act or Acts of Parliament now in being, touching any the Goods, Merchandizes, or Commodities so to be imported or brought in, or the Duties thereof, such other Provisions or Alterations shall always be observed, any Thing herein contained to the contrary, notwithstanding. Provided also, That this Act or any Thing therein contained, shall not extend to repeal or alter any Law or Laws relating to the Importation of any Goods or Merchandizes into *Great-Britain*, which were in Force in the said Year 1664. any Thing herein contained to the contrary notwithstanding. Provided always, and it is hereby declared by the Authority aforesaid, That that Part of the Ninth Article of the Treaty of Commerce and Navigation above recited, whereby it is agreed, That all Prohibitions, Tariffs, Edicts, Declarations, or Decrees made in *France* since the Tariff of the Year 1664. and contrary thereunto, in respect to the Goods and Merchandizes of *Great Britain* shall be repealed, is, and shall be intended to extend not only to the Goods of the Growth, Production, and Manufacture of *Great Britain*, but also to all Goods and Merchandizes which the Subjects of *Great-Britain* did, or might import into, or export from

France

France, at any Time since the making of the said Tariff of the 18th of *September* 1664. and to such *British* Ships and Vessels wherein the same shall be imported, except as to the Species of Goods and Merchandize excepted by the said Ninth Article; the Consideration of which is referred to Commissaries to be appointed on both Sides, a particular Specification of which Merchandize was executed at *Utrecht* the 28th Day of *April* 1713. by the Ambassadors and Plenipotentiaries of Her Majesty and the Most Christian King. As to which excepted Species of Merchandize, it is hereby further declared by the Authority aforesaid, That by the Eighth and Ninth Articles of the said Treaty of Commerce and Navigation; it is, and shall be intended, That the Subjects of *Great Britain* shall, and may at all Times hereafter import into *France*, all Sorts of Merchandizes comprehended under the said excepted Species, and enjoy all Privileges, Immunities, and Exemptions of Duties in respect thereof, which the Subjects of any Nation or State, the most favoured have, use, enjoy, or are exempted from, or shall, have, use, enjoy, or be hereafter exempted from concerning the like Kinds or Species of Merchandize.

THE Objections offered at the Bar by the Merchants (and you may be sure we heard little new in the Debates, because 'twas apparent their Speeches were the collected Sense of the Whig Party, and composed not only of every Argument that every W——g Merchant in the City could devise in Relation to Trade, but of every Cavil

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and *Querk* that L——mer's *Law Education*, or *W——le's Sophistry* could furnish them with against the Treaty it self) and were in Substance no more than these:

The Argument of the First City Orator, (who appeared for the *Turkey Company*) stripped of its Decorations and fine Periods, was this: " That though the Company did chiefly
 " export our Woollen Manufactures, and
 " with them purchased Raw-Silk in *Turkey*;
 " and though by this Treaty, they had a
 " new and a very considerable Market, *viz.*
 " *France*, opened to them to vend that Raw-
 " Silk at; Nevertheless, it would be prejudi-
 " cial to Us, because the *French* would be a-
 " ble to work up that Silk cheaper than our
 " own Manufacturers could.

Was ever any Thing more absurd, than that this Company should complain of what their own Champion could not but acknowledge was beneficial to them, lest it should be prejudicial to the *Weavers*; and how true even that Suggestion was, you will hereafter see by the Confession of him who appeared for the *Weavers*.

But indeed we were told in the House, That this Petition of the *Turkey Company*, was not agreed to by the most considerable Traders, but they were out-voted by such as were only Free of that Company, and had either left off, or never did Trade thither at all. Nay, the very Persons who had been drawn in to sign the Petition, became afterwards so sensible of their Mistake, and so justly resented the prevaricating Behaviour of this Person they had sent to appear before us,
 That

That the very next Day in a General Court they abridg'd him in the Perquisites of a Place he held under them above 100 l. *per Annum*. This single Instance may serve for a Scetch, to shew you how the rest of the Petitions were obtained.

The second Person, who pretended to appear for the *Spanish* Traders, was a Fellow of the most grave composed Impudence I ever yet saw; for after spending but a Minute or Two upon that Subject, he was pleased wholly to take his Leave of it, and entertain us a good Two Hours with *his, or rather the Gentlemens above-named* Scruples and Cavils, against the whole Body of the Treaty its self in every Part of it: But as this was calculated to amuse, or rather inflame without Doors, than convince within, I shall take no further Notice of it. Besides that, I suppose you will see both this and the former in Print as soon as the House is prorogued.

The Two next, in behalf of the *Italian* Trade and the *Weavers*; as they had more Modesty, so they kept more to their Purpose, and indeed answered the Questions they were asked very fairly.

“ The Gentleman for the *Italian* Trade
 “ did not so much insist on the Wine Trade
 “ of *Italy*, and indeed few People now
 “ drink the *Florence* Wines, but those who are
 “ pleased with the peculiar Roughness, Full-
 “ ness, and Strength of them, and they will
 “ always for the same Reasons hereafter drink
 “ them, so that the Consumption will be but lit-
 “ tle different: But he chiefly urged, That as
 “ the *French* could manufacture Silks cheaper
 “ than

“ than the *Italians*, so if they were permitted to
 “ import them here upon equal Duties, the *Italian*
 “ Silk Trade would be wholly lost. But when
 “ he was ask’d; whether if Part of the present
 “ Duty was taken off from raw and thrown
 “ Silk imported from *Italy*, that would not
 “ make them sufficiently Amends, he ingenu-
 “ ously answered, That if a proportionable En-
 “ couragement was given for the Importation
 “ of raw and thrown Silk, the *Italian* Mer-
 “ chants could have no reason to complain of
 “ any Difficulties put upon their wrought Silks,
 “ because the Other would be at least equally
 “ advantagious to them.

The Weaver, after he had, with a great deal
 of Pains, made it plain to himself (and perhaps
 very truly) that the *French* could a little Under-
 work us in wrought Silks; being ask’d how
 much, and in what Proportions, fairly owned,
 That as to the black Silks, *viz.* the Lustrings
 and Alamodes, we were come to such a Perfe-
 ction in making of them here, during the long
 Continuance of these Two last Wars with
France, that the present Duties they now stand
 charged with, fully secure us from any Possibi-
 lity of having any brought hither from *France*,
 so as to be sold so good and so cheap as what
 we can make here our selves; and as to the
 other wrought Silks, according to his own
 Computation, there was not above Twenty
 Pence difference in a Pound of Silk, which
 when wrought, may be worth from Three to
 Twenty Pounds Sterling, and surely the Freight,
 Factorage, and Insurance or Hazard, which is
 all one, will more than turn the Balance on our
 Side, as the Case now already stands.

The

The Throwster's Complaint was of the same Nature, and the same easy Remedy would have served to have made every one of these Complainers easy, even as they themselves confessed, viz. The taking off a small Duty from raw and thrown Silk imported; and to that Purpose was a Bill preparing, if we in our great Wifdoms had not put a Negative upon this Bill's being engrossed.

So that the whole Complaints of all the Traders that appeared before us, except the *Portugal* Merchants, were capable of this very easy Cure, and perhaps wanted not even this. His Complaint indeed was of another Nature, and wholly related to the Wine Trade; but his Arguments were very odly grounded, not upon Facts, but upon Presumptions and Apprehensions, which he takes and lays down, *pro Confesso*; whereas, when they come to be examined, neither of them can be allowed; and I dare say, when they shall come to be experimented, neither of them will prove true. " He first presumed, or rather " asserted very Dogmatically, that if the Duties " on *French* Wines were lowered, to be equal " to those on *Portugal* Wines, *None* of the latter would be imported; and the Apprehension that was to follow from this false *Postulatum* is, That then the King of *Portugal* will prohibit our Woollen Manufactures from being imported there.

As to the First, 'twas affirmed by several experienced Merchants, That there always has been, even when the *Portugal* Duties were higher than the *French*, a considerable Importation of those Wines, That they always have been and always will be necessary to mix with such Wines of the growth of *France*, as are too thin and

and meagre of themselves, That some Stomachs require them, and some Persons will always, for their Strength, prefer them. To argue therefore from no *Portugal* Wines being to be imported, is arguing upon no Foundation at all; for without all Doubt, very great Quantities, if not the whole Growth, will always have a Demand and find a Vent here; nay, it was said by a Gentleman of our House, that he knew a Set of Merchants that would contract to take off the whole Growth of the Wines of *Portugal*, even after the *French* Duties should be lowered to an equality. His Premises being therefore so very far from true, the dreadful Apprehension of ill Consequences must be groundless.

But to cure us effectually of any Sort of Fear of this pretended Danger of a Prohibition, we need only consider in the First Place, whether the Woollen Manufactures with which we at present furnish *Portugal*, are not so absolutely necessary to them, that since they cannot be supplied with them at home, they must of necessity, and always will be furnished with them from abroad, either from us or some other foreign Nation. And then, whether there is any other Nation that can furnish them with those Goods better or cheaper than we can, or that will Trade with them upon so good Terms as we should, even after the Passing of this Bill.

As to the First, That the *Portuguese* do want all Sorts of Woollen Manufactures. That they cannot be supplied with them at home, and consequently must from abroad, will admit of no doubt; the only Thing therefore that is to be considered is, whether there is any other Rival Nation by whom we may be in Danger of being

ing supplanted in this Trade, *even tho' we should disoblige the Portuguese.*

'Twill be readily granted, that we neither have, nor can have any other Rivals in Trade than our Two Neighbour Nations, the *French* and the *Dutch*, and it may be as easily proved, That neither of those Nations can supply any foreign Market with Woollen Manufactures so good and cheap as we can: 'Tis indeed, clamour only, or banter to assert the Contrary; therefore, unless either one or both of them can Trade with *Portugal* upon better Terms than we shall, I mean by that, unless they will take off more of the Goods of the Growth of *Portugal* in Exchange for such Goods as they should send thither, than we shall, we can be in no Danger of being supplanted by either of them in this Trade, which we are at present in Possession of.

And as to the Terms of Trade upon an Impartial View, we shall find we have equally, if not more the Advantage of them in that respect, than in the Goodness of our Manufactures: The Commodities of the Growth of *Portugal* are Wines, Fruits and Oils, and of these the *French* can take off none, being better supplied with them at Home; the *Dutch*, they take no Wines (I dare say there is not a Ton of *Port* Wine drank in a Year throughout the whole Seven Provinces) and very little of their Oils or Fruits; whereas we shall always take off their Fruits and Oils, and a very great Quantity at least, if not all their Wines; so that could either the *French* or *Dutch* supply them with Woollen Manufactures, equally good and cheap (which is absurd to imagine) Yet upon the very Terms of Trade, we must always be the Nation preferred by *Portugal*, for

now another man says that now the

the *French* taking off none of their Wines, Oils, or Fruits, must in return for whatever they should send them, be paid all in Money; the *Dutch* taking off none of their Wines, and but very little of their Fruits and Oils, must be paid near all in Money; whereas we should, if this Bill had passed, have taken off great Quantities of their Wines, almost all their Fruits, and all their Oils, and be paid the Residue only in Money.

And now I have sent you the Bill it self, and the Objections in their full Force (though abbreviated) that were made against it, and some few of the many Answers I heard made to them, I here send you a true List of those who voted for and against the engrossing it; and I believe amongst all those who were for the Bill, you will not find one who is not in the true Interest of the Church, Queen, and Country; and by the Scetch I have given you of the Arguments on both Sides, you will say there was no need of any other Bias than an impartial Judgment to direct his Voting: But amongst those who were against the Bill, you will find 120 W——gs, to whom every Thing is right which they think may help to distress the present Administration, or promote the Interests of their strict Allies the *Dutch*, who received the News of this Bill's being rejected with inexpressible Joy; for now our Trade to *France* must be carried on through *Holland* (unless this false Step be retrieved): And added to them, you will find the Names of several worthy good-natur'd Gentlemen whose Reasons for voting as they did were apparently foreign to the Question, or such as I hope will not last to the next Sessions, when
the

the same Question may be proposed. Some you will find, Knights of Shires, fallily amused and terrified with the Loss of their future Elections: Some personally piqu'd at the Ministry; and others, either by Interest or Relation, strongly attach'd to one or two Lords, who took the Liberty to solicit against it.

However, take the Lists of them as follows, which are very exact: In the Latter, I have taken the Pains to distinguish the Sheep from the Goats; those mark'd with [W.] are Whigs, those with [Wh.] are very Whimsicals indeed; and the rest, I hope, are very far from lost Sheep, which were hardly ever known to straggle from us but this once, and I hope never will again.

The LIST for the BILL.

Berks.

County	{ S ^R John Stonehouse
Windfor	Robert Packer
Reading	Chales Aldworth
Wallingford	John Dalby
	Tho. Renda

Bucks.

Great Marlow	George Bruere
Buckingham	Tho. Chapman
Chipping Wicomb	Charles Godfrey
Aylesbury	Simon Harcourt
Agmondesham	{ Colonel Drake
	{ Francis Duncombe

*Cambridgeshire.*Cambridge Town *Sir John Hind Cotton**Cornwall.*

County	{ <i>Sir. R. Vivian</i>
Launceston	{ <i>John Trevannion</i>
Lestwithiel	<i>George Clark</i>
Bodmin	<i>General Hill</i>
Helston	<i>Russel Roberts</i>
	<i>Robert Child</i>
Saltaſh	{ <i>Sir William Carew</i>
Camelford	{ <i>Jonathan Elford</i>
St. Maws	<i>Sir Bou. Wray</i>
Grampond	<i>John Anstis</i>
Penryn	<i>Thomas Coke</i>
Tregony	<i>Alexander Pandarves</i>
	<i>Edward Southwell</i>
Bossiney	{ <i>Henry Champion</i>
	{ <i>John Manly</i>
Fowey	{ <i>Barnard Granville</i>
St. Michael	{ <i>Henry Vincent, Junior</i>
	<i>Abraham Blackmore</i>

Derbyshire.

Derby	{ <i>Nathaniel Curzon</i>
	{ <i>Edward Mundy</i>

Devon.

Exeter	<i>John Snell</i>
Totneſs	<i>Francis Gwyn</i>
Barnſtable	<i>Sir Nicholas Hooper</i>
Honiton	<i>James Shephard</i>
Taviſtock	<i>James Bulteel</i>
Aſhburton	<i>Andrew Quick</i>

Clifton

Clifton Dartmouth Frederick Hern
Tiverton Sir Edward Northey

Dorsetshire.

County	Richard Bingham
Dorchester	Sir Nathanael Napier
Melcomb. Regis	{ William Hervy
	{ Sir Thomas Hardy
Shaftsbury	Edward Nicholas
Corf Castle	Richard Fowndes

Durham.

County	Sir Robert Eden
Durham City	Thomas Coniers

Essex.

County	Sir Richard Child
Colchester	William Gore
Malden	{ John Cummys
	{ Thomas Brampton
Harwich	Kendrick Edisbury

Herefordshire.

County	Sir Thomas Morgan
Hereford	{ James Bridges
	{ Thomas Foley
Leominster	Edward Harley

Hertfordshire.

St. Albans	John Gape
Hertford	{ Charles Cæsar
	{ Richard Gulston

Hunting-

Huntingdon.

County

Sir John Cotton

Kent.

County

Percival Hart

Canterbury

{ John Hardress

{ Henry Lee

Rocheſter

{ Sir John Leake

{ William Cage

Queenborough

James Herbert

Lancashire.

Preston

Henry Fleetwood

Newton

Thomas Leigh

Wigan

{ Sir Roger Braidshaw

{ George Kenyon

Leiceſterſhire.

Leiceſter

Sir George Beaumont

Lincolnſhire.

Lincoln

Thomas Liſter

Great Grimsby

Arthur Moor

Middleſex.

Weſtminſter

{ Thomas Medlycott

London

{ Sir Thomas Croſs

Sir William Withers

Monmouthſhire.

Monmouth

Clayton Milburn

Nor-

Norfolk.

County	Sir John Woodhouse
Norwich	Richard Berney
Great Yarmouth	Richard Ferrier
Castle-rising	Hor. Walpole

Northamptonshire.

Brackley.	John Bourk
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Northumberland.

County	Thomas Forster
Newcastle upon Tyne	{ Sir William Blacket. William Wrightson

Nottingham.

Newark upon Trent	Richard Newdigate
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Oxfordshire.

University	Sir William Whitlock
Oxford	{ Sir John Walter
Banbury	{ Thomas Rowney
	Charles North

Rutlandshire.

County	Richard Halford
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Salop.

Shrewsbury	Edward Cresset
Bridgnorth	Richard Creswel
Ludlow	Acton Baldwyn
Bishop's-Castle	Sir Robert Raymond

Somer-

Somersetshire.

County	Sir William Wyndham
Wells	Edward Coulston
Taunton	Henry Portman
Bridgwater	Nathanael Palmer
Minehead	{ Sir John Trevilian
	{ Sir Jacob Bancks
Ilchester	{ Sir James Bateman
	{ Edward Phelips

Southampton.

Southampton	{ Christopher Harris
	{ Richard Flemming
Portsmouth	{ Sir William Gifford
	{ Sir James Wishart
Newport	{ William Seymour
	{ Colonel Stephens
Newton	{ Henry Worsey
	{ James Worsey
Christ-Church	{ William Etrick
	{ Sir Peter Mew
Whitchurch	{ Frederick Tilney
	{ Thomas Vernon

Staffordshire.

County	{ Charles Bagot
	{ William Ward
Newcastle <i>un.</i> Line	William Burslem
Tamworth	{ Joseph Girdler
	{ Samuel Bracebridge

Suffolk.

Suffolk.

County	Sir Robert Davers
Orford	{ Sir Edward Turner
Aldborough	{ Clement Curran
Sudbury	{ Sir Henry Johnson
	{ Robert Ecklyn
	{ John Mead

Surry.

Ryegate	John Ward
Haslemere	Theophilus Oglethorp

Suffex.

County	Charles Eversfield
Horsham	John Middleton
Bramber	William Shippen
Steyning	{ Harry Goring
	{ ——— Leves
Greenfield	{ John Coniers
	{ Leonard Gale

Warwickshire.

County	Sir William Boughton
Coventry	Sir Christopher Hales
Warwick	Dodington Greville

Westmorland.

County	James Graham
Apulby	Thomas Lutwyche

Wilts.

Wilts.

County	Sir Richard How
Hindon	{ Edmund Lambert
	{ Warner Lee
Cricklade	Samuel Robinson
Great Bedwin	Thomas Millington
Ludgershal	{ John Webb
	{ Thomas Pearce
Old Sarum	William Hervey
Marlborough	Robert Bruce

Worcestershire.

County	{ Sir John Packington
	{ Samuel Pitts
Worcester	Samuel Swift
Droitwich	{ Edward Foley
	{ Edward Jefferys
Evesham	Sir Edward Godere
Bewdley	Salway Winnington

Yorkshire.

York	Robert Benson
Knaresborough	Robert Byerley
Scarborough	John Hungerford
Rippon	John Sharp
Boroughbrigg	Craven Peyton
Aldborough	Robert Munckton

Cinque Ports.

Hastings	Sir Joseph Martyn
Sandwich	John Mitchell

Seaford

Seaford

William Lownds

Wales.

Anglesey
 Beaumaris
 Flint
 Radnor County
 Radnor

Lord Buckley
 Henry Bertie
 Sir John Conway
 Thomas Harley
 Lord Harley

Scotland.

Aberdeen
 Aireburgh
 Bamffshire
 Dumfrieshire
 Edinburghshire
 Elgin
 Fifeshire
 Pittenweem
 Angusshire

Sir Alexander Cumlin
 Charles Olyphant
 Alexander Abercrombie
 James Murray
 George Lockhart
 Alexander Reid
 Sir Alex. Areskin Lord Lyon
 General Hamilton
 John Carnegie
 William Levingston
 Sir James Hamilton
 John Houston
 Lord James Murray
 Charles Ross
 John Pringle
 Sir Hugh Paterson

Lanerkshire
 Linlithgowshire
 Perthshire
 Rossshire
 Selkirkshire
 Sterlingshire

In all 187

*Against the BILL.**Bedford.*

County
 Bedford

SIR William Gostwick W.
 { John Cater W.
 William Farrer W.
 E Berke

Berks.

New-Windsor
Reading
Abingdon

Richard Topham *W.*
Owen Buckingham *W.*
James Jennings *Wh.*

Bucks.

Buckingham
Chipp. Wiccomb
Wendover
Great Marlow

Sir Richard Temple *W.*
Sir Thomas Lee *W.*
Sir Roger Hill *W.*
Henry Grey Nevil *W.*
Sir James Etheridge

Cambridgeshire.

County
University
Cambridge

{ John Bromley *Wh.*
John Jenyns
Dixey Windsor
Thomas Paske
Samuel Shephard *Wh.*

Cheshire.

County
Chester.

{ Sir George Warburton
Charles Cholmondeley *Wh.*
Peter Shakerley *Wh.*

Cornwall.

Grampound
Estlow
Penryn
Tregony
St. Ives
St. Germans
St. Michael
Kellington

James Craggs *W.*
Thomas Smith *W.*
Samuel Trefusis
Samuel Robinson *Wh.*
John Hopkins *W.*
John Knight *W.*
Richard Bellasis *Wh.*
Henry Manaton *Wh. Cum*

Cumberland.

County	{ James Lowther <i>W.</i>
Carlisle	{ Gilfred Lawson <i>Wh.</i>
	Sir James Montague <i>W.</i>
Cockermouth	{ Nicholas Lechmere <i>W.</i>
	{ James Stanhope <i>W.</i>

Devon.

County	Sir Will. Courteney
Exeter	Sir Cop. Warwick Bamfield
Plympton	{ Richard Edgecomb. <i>W.</i>
	{ George Treby <i>W.</i>
Tavistock	Sir John Cope <i>W.</i>
Ashburton	Richard Reynolds <i>Wh.</i>
Clifton Dartm.	Nathanael Hern <i>W.</i>
Boralston	{ Sir Peter King <i>W.</i>
	{ Lawrence Carter <i>W.</i>
Tiverton	John Worth.

Dorset.

Poole	William Lewin
Lime-Regis	John Burridge <i>W.</i>
Weymouth	{ Maurice Ashley <i>W.</i>
	{ Reginal Marriot <i>Wh.</i>
Bridport	William Coventry <i>W.</i>

Durham.

Durham City	——— Shaftoe
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Essex.

County
Harwich

Thomas Middleton *W.*
Thomas Frankland *W.*

Gloucestershire.

County
Tewksbury
Weobly

Matthew Ducie Morton *W.*
William Bromley *W.*
—— Dodeswell *W.*
John Birch *W.*

Hartfordshire.

County

Ralph Freeman

Huntingdonshire.

County
Huntingdon

John Pocklington *W.*
Edward Wortley *W.*
Francis Page *W.*

Kent.

Maidstone

Sir Robert Marsham *W.*

Lancashire.

County
Lancaster
Newton
Clitheroe

Charles Stanley *W.*
Richard Shuttleworth *Wh.*
Robert Heysham *Wh.*
William Heysham
John Ward *Wh.*
Thomas Lister
Edward Harvey

Le-

(37)

Liverpoole

{ Sir Thomas Johnson W.
John Cleveland W.

Leicestershire.

Leicester

James Winstanley

Lincolnshire.

County

Paul Dymock

Boston

Coatesworth W.

Grantham

{ Sir John Thorold Wh.
Sir William Ellis W.

Stamford

Charles Bertie

Middlesex.

County

James Bertie

London

{ Sir Richard Hoare
Sir George Newland
Sir John Casse

Monmouthshire.

County

{ Thomas Lewis W.
John Morgan W.

Norfolk.

County

Sir Jacob Astley

Lyn Regis

{ Sir Charles Turner W.
Edward Turner W.

Castle Rising

William Feilding W.

Northamptonshire.

Northampton

George Montague W.

Peterborough

John Fits-Williams W.
Higham

Higham-Ferrers Thomas Wentworth *Wh.*
 Brackley William Egerton *W.*

Northumberland.

Morpeth { *Ld. Visc.* Castle-Comer *W.*
 { Sir Richard Sandford *W.*
 Berwick { William Kerr *W.*
 { Richard Hampden *W.*

Nottinghamshire.

County William Levinz
 Nottingham John Plumptree *W.*
 East-Retford { ——— Lewis
 { Thomas Coke

Oxfordshire.

County Francis Clerk
 Woodstock Sir Thomas Wheat *W.*

Rutlandshire.

County Daniel Lord Finch *W.*

Shropshire.

County Robert Lloyd *Wh.*

Somersetshire.

Bristol Joseph Earle *Wh.*
 Bridgewater George Dodington *W.*
 Milburn-Port { James Medlycot *W.*
 { Sir Thomas Travel *W.*

South-

Southamptonshire.

County	George Pitt <i>Wh.</i>
Petersfield	Norton Pawlet <i>W.</i>
Stockbridge	{ Earl of Barrymore
Lymington	{ George Dashwood <i>Wh.</i>
Andover	{ Lord William Pawlet <i>W.</i>
	{ John Smith <i>W.</i>
	{ William Guidot <i>W.</i>

Staffordshire.

Stafford	Walter Chetwind <i>Wh.</i>
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Suffolk.

County	Sir Thomas Hanmer
Aldborough	William Johnson
Eye	Thomas Maynard <i>W.</i>
St. Edmondsbury	Aubrie Porter <i>W.</i>

Surrey.

County	Heneage Finch <i>Wh.</i>
Southwark	Sir Charles Cox <i>W.</i>
Blechingley	{ George Evelyn <i>W.</i>
Ryegate	{ Thomas Onslow <i>W.</i>
Guildford	Sir John Parsons
Gatton	Morgan Randyl <i>Wh.</i>
Haslemere	{ William Newland
	{ Paul Docminique <i>Wh.</i>
	Sir John Clerk <i>Wh.</i>

Sussex.

Suffex.

Chichester	Sir Richard Faringdon <i>W.</i>
Lewes	Thomas Pelham <i>W.</i>
New Shoreham	{ Gregory Page <i>W.</i>
	{ Nathaniel Gold <i>W.</i>
Arundel	{ Lord Lumley <i>W.</i>
	{ Earl of Thomond <i>W.</i>

Warwickshire.

Warwick	Charles Leigh <i>Wh.</i>
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Westmorland.

Apulby	Edward Duncomb
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Wiltshire.

Old Sarum	Thomas Pitt <i>W.</i>
Wilton	{ Charles Mompesson <i>W.</i>
	{ Peter Bathurst <i>Wh.</i>
Downton	John Eyre <i>W.</i>
Heytesbury	{ Edw. Ash <i>W.</i>
	{ William Ash <i>W.</i>
Westbury	{ Henry Bertie
	{ Francis Annesley <i>Wh.</i>
Calne	William Hedges <i>Wh.</i>
Devizes	Thomas Webb <i>Wh.</i>
Malmesbury	{ Sir John Rushout <i>W.</i>
	{ Joseph Addison <i>W.</i>
Cricklade	Edmund Dunch <i>W.</i>
New Sarum	Robert Pitt <i>W.</i>

Worcestershire.

Worcester
Evesham

Thomas Wild *W.*
John Rudge *W.*

Yorkshire.

County

{ Lord Downes.

York City

{ Sir Arthur Kay.

Kingston upon

{ Sir William Robinson *W.*

Hull

{ Sir William St. Quintin *W.*

Scarborough

{ William Maister *W.*

Rippon

{ William Thompson *W.*

Richmond

{ John Aislaby *Wh.*

Heydon

{ John York *W.*

{ William Pultney *W.*

Malton

{ Hugh Cholmeley *W.*

{ William Palmes *W.*

{ William Strickland *W.*

Thirsk

{ James Worlely *W.*

{ Ralph Bell *W.*

Aldborough

{ William Jessop *W.*

Beverley

{ Sir Michael Wharton *Wh.*

North Allerton

{ Roger Gale *W.*

{ Robert Rakes *W.*

Pontefract

{ Robert Frank

Cinque-Ports.

Hastings

Sir William Ashburnham *W.*

Dover

Philip Papillion *W.*

Hyeth

Lord Shannon *W.*

New Romney.

— — Watson *W.*

Rye

Sir John Norris *W.*

Philip Gibbon *W.*

F

Sir Francis

Winchelsea

} Sir Francis Dashwood *W.*
 } Robert Bristow *W.*

Wales.

Brecknock Town Edward Jefferys *Wh.*
 Carmarthen Coun. Sir Thomas Powel.
 Carmarthen Town ——— Vaughan *Wh.*
 Flint Sir Roger Mosteyn *Wh.*

Scotland.

Airshire John Montgomery *W.*
 Berwickshire George Bayly *W.*
 Tain, Dingwall &c Robert Monroe *W.*
 Glasgowburgh Thomas Smith *W.*
 Edinburgh Sir Patrick Johnston *W.*
 Elginshire Alexander Grant *W.*
 Sterlinburgh Henry Cuninghame *W.*
 Dysertburgh James Oswald *W.*
 Perthburgh George Yeaman
 Haddingtonshire John Cockburn *W.*
 Wigtounshire John Stewart *W.*
 Pebbleshire Alexander Murray *Wh.*
 Renfrewshire Sir Robert Pollock *W.*
 Roxboroughshire Sir Gilbert Elliot *W.*
 Haddingtonburgh Sir David Dalrymple *W.*
 Stewarty. of Ker- { ——— Stuart *W.* ———
 kendbright. } In all 196

I Think I have now gone a great Way towards
 satisfying you in what you desired of me: You
 have the Bill, the Arguments, and the Names
 of the Persons that voted for and against it;
 but the most difficult Task yet remains, which
 is to give you an Account how it came to pass
 that some of our Friends should be so zealous

as

as to solicit against it : But here (as I told you in the Beginning of my Letter I would) I shall decline sending the Reasons assigned by some People here ; but as to Facts which I am fully satisfied are true, I shall very freely communicate them to you. You must know then, that the chief Fomenters of the Opposition to this Bill were not Members of our House, but two noble Peers, who have all along hitherto been of the Church Party, and I hope for their own Sakes will, notwithstanding this Slip, continue so. They both are in Her Majesty's Service : The one enjoys a very profitable, as well as honourable, Post in *Ireland* ; the other, besides a Post of great Honour on this Side *Trent*, and his Wife's being of the Bed-Chamber, has a very considerable Pension of 1200 *l. per Ann.* which, I dare say, in every Body's Opinion, besides their own, is at least equal to any Service they either have, or hereafter can do the Crown. The former indeed is a Man of lively Parts, such as are fit, and have carried him through the first Scenes of Life with some sort of Reputation : They were Funds sufficient to enable him at the University to argue with the Sophs, and pun with the young Masters of Arts with Success, as they did afterwards to wrangle with *Walpole* in the House of Commons ; but now being unfortunately come to have a Seat in the other House, upon the Strength of this unpolish'd Wit he sets up for a deep Politician, would fain be in the Secret, and fancies himself equal to the first Posts in the Government, though nothing can be more apparent, than that whenever any Thing that can be called Business is stirring in either of the Houses, let the Waters that are

moved be ever so shallow, he always contrives to get himself out of his Depth in them, and plunge some few of his implicit Followers along with him. The other, though a Lord, were it not for his numerous Relations, would never be considered any further than his Title. As to his personal Qualifications; his Pride and Self-sufficiency, whilst his Cousin the Duke of *L—ds* was alive to point them right, have been useful to the Publick; but now they are left to his own Management, we must take our Chance, it seems, whether they are to do Good or Hurt for the future. To these two Lords a declamatory Commoner, having chose for his Supporters two Lawyers, (Persons of as little Interest, and as ill heard in the House as any that ever opened their Mouths there) was pleas'd to join himself: And this Detachment of the two Houses, o'their own Heads, without consulting their Friends, undertook to acquaint the Men in Power, that it was the united Opinion and Desire of the whole Church Party, that this Bill might be dropp'd for this Sessions, and revived in the next; which they believing to be a real Embassy from the whole Body of their Friends, were prevail'd with to give their Consent to; and accordingly this wise Scheme of dropping it was for some Time handed about the House, but very ill relished by Men of Sense and Spirit.

It appeared at first highly unintelligible, why so good a Bill, wherein the Interest of the whole united Nation was so much concerned, should be carried on so far with so much Unanimity of Friends, and then dropp'd, without any other Reason assign'd than to gratify and pacify the Whigs. But when the true Reason came to be known,

known, (which was not till past Twelve a Clock on that very Day the Question was put for engrossing or not engrossing) that two or three Persons had been undertaking it without any such Commission given them for the whole Body of the Tories, it was treated with greater Contempt and Indignation than it had been before with Wonder and Amazement; and the Gentlemen were resolved not to give up their Country, and the Trade, which is the Life and Soul of it, without appearing in the Defence of it, and disavowing their being to be bargained for at a private Meeting by two or three Persons, to whose Understandings very few People indeed ought to give up their own.

How Men, pretending to any Sort of Character or Integrity, could do this, or why they did it, I told you above. I should not take upon me to assign the Reasons: I promised only to send you Matter of Fact; but I must tell you too, that when they had gone thus far, they thought themselves now obliged to carry their Point, tho' at any Rate, and set about it with the same Unfairness they first undertook it. They complained loudly, that the Ministry had dealt doubly with them, (which poison'd not a few) when in Truth they dealt doubly with their Friends: And yet notwithstanding all their Artifices, in Conjunction with 120 Whigs, and above 30 Whimsicals, they carried it but by Nine Voices; and had the Secret come out but one Day sooner, they had lost it by above five Times that Number.

As to the Lords, how far they are exalted with their Triumph I know not; but our Commoner, who I think acted only weakly, and was drawn in by the Lords, (as the next best Sense,

Some say, that a wrong Thing, is not to per-
sist in, but the best and earliest Retreat
is, when he possibly can, by moving within a
Day or two for that Answer to the Queen which
thanks Her Majesty for the Care she had taken of
us in Her Treaty of Commerce, as well as Peace,
and acknowledging that Treaty to be a very good
Foundation for a very advantageous Trade for
Her Kingdoms. And herein not only his *Umbræ*'s
followed his Motion, but every one of our Dis-
senting Brethren, who had been led away either
by false Apprehensions, or false Suggestions, or
Mistakes of their own, very greedily joined, and
we were united again to a Man, which plainly
shows how very shallow their Aversion was to
the Bill it self: And I hope, neither the weak
Judgments of one or two Lords or Commoners,
who falsely think themselves wiser than their
Neighbours, or private undertakings, which are
still worse, will ever venture to make such a Breach
amongst us again, which, had it not been to be re-
trieved, would have proved so fatal to us now.

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